Diphu-Karong BG line

1130. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

whether Government have policy to link by rail the capitals of the seven North Eastern States, as announced by the former Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, on the floor of Parliament;

(b) whether, as a part of the policy, B.G. line from Diphu to Karong was also announced as the first phase;

(c) if so, the present status of rail links referred to in a parts (a) and (b) above; and

(d) whether there is change in the above policy; if so the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWASY (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The status of various ongoing new line works linking capitals of the North Eastern States is as under:—

(i) Harmuti-itanagar—Survey for an alternative alignment from Bedati to Itanagar at the request of the state Govt, has been taken up and is in progress.

(ii) Diphu-Karong as first phase of BG line to Imphal—On the request of Govt, of Manipur, survey for an alternative alignment for rail link from Jiribam to imphal has been taken up.

(iii) Kumarghat-Agartala—Earthwork, bridge work have been taken up. Kumarghat-Manu (16 km) is targeted for completion during 2001—2003. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Further, surveys for new lines from Dimapurto Kohima and updating survey for new line from Bhairabi to Aizawal are in progress. Further consideration of the proposals would be possible once the survey reports become available.

(d) No, Sir.